

## **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for use with a taxonomy-based search service that locates expanded information based on a query the client has proposed, by performing an automatically expanded  
5 branching of the query. The client specifies a starting point (corresponding to an origin node) in the taxonomy along with one or more genealogical directions to expand the search, such as to parent, children and/or sibling nodes. Variables may specify how many generations upward and/or downward should be  
10 included in the expanded search. A middle tier receives the request and converts it to the relevant queries needed to query a database that maintains the taxonomy, such that the client receives a result set that contains expanded results without needing any contextual knowledge of the taxonomy. The  
15 middle tier may be implemented, for example, in a UDDI-based environment that helps clients locate web services and other information.